

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-5, 8-13, and 17-18, and for indicating claims 15, 16, 19 and 20 were directed to allowable subject matter. Dependent claim 21 is new.

The Examiner rejected claims 6, 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,679,102 issued to Wevers, et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

Independent claim 6, as amended, recites "repeatedly chopping a connection between the spindle motor and the driving circuit to generate an intermittent back-emf derived recirculation current; and repeatedly chopping a connection between the positioning motor and driving circuit at least substantially synchronized out-of-phase with the chopping of the spindle motor connection." Independent claim 7, as amended, recites "a controller adapted to respond to loss of said external power supply by repeatedly chopping connections between the driving circuit and the spindle and positioning motors respectfully in a substantially synchronized out-of-phase manner." Independent claim 14, as amended, recites "wherein the controller is configured in a first mode of operation to generate control signals to operate the first motor at a substantially constant speed and in a second mode of operation to extract power from the first motor for operating the second motor by generating control signals to cyclically chop connections between the power rail and the first and second motors substantially in out-of-phase synchronization." Support for the amendments can be found in Figure 3 and the accompanying description thereof. Wevers does not disclose repeatedly or cyclically chopping connections, as recited. Thus, Applicants submit that amended claims 6, 7 and 14 are not anticipated by Wevers, and are allowable for reasons similar to those set forth by the Examiner with respect to claims 1, 3, and 11.

Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14, claim 19 depends from claim 6, and claim 20 depends from claim 7. New claim 21 depends from previously allowed claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance.

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Reply to Office Action dated November 28, 2005

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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